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SOUTH COUNTY  
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## LETTERS

### Airport answer: Look east and to high-speed rail

Your Aug. 27 story "'Fatal flaws' emerge in search for regional airport" reported that a working group assigned to cut down a list of sites for a regional airport identified "fatal flaws" that seemed to eliminate every current San Diego County proposal. Imagine that!

Here we go again — the same dynamic we have been facing for decades. Everyone agrees we need a new airport, but no one wants it in his backyard. And the only means of transportation to an airport envisioned by the working group was the automobile.

I believe the answer lies in looking to the east of San Diego County and focusing on sites in Imperial County that could be served by a high-speed rail line. The people of Imperial County would welcome the airport, construction wouldn't cost anyone his home and, with a high-speed rail link, the airport would be accessible from San Diego in less than 30 minutes.

Imagine a high-speed rail station somewhere in, for example, Mission Valley, close to Interstate 5, Interstate 805, Interstate 8 and Highway 163. Imagine a 300 mph ride to Imperial Valley. This vision is feasible, but San Diego must first have the courage to embrace a bold vision of the future.

The greater San Diego area is a growing world-class community. We need a world-class airport. And we must not shy away from proposals that seem visionary. I hope the working group will have the courage to do what previous airport site selection groups have failed to do: think in terms of solutions for the next 50 years and forget the failed proposals of yesteryear.

BOB FILNER  
Congressman, 51st District  
*San Diego*